
Cumberland County **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE** Program

Cumberland County CASA Program
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 301
Carlisle, PA 17013



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Virginia Koser

O: 717.240.6351

casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Child Advocates Needed: Become a Cumberland County CASA Volunteer

Sign Up for a Virtual Information Session on Wednesday, June 25th to Learn More

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, (CASA), needs volunteers to work with abused and/or neglected children involved in the child welfare court system. To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer and making a difference in the lives of children in our community, residents are invited to attend one of two virtual informational sessions.

Sessions for Wednesday, June 25:

- Noon - 1 p.m.
- 6 - 7 p.m.

To attend a session, please email your name and preferred session time to casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov, or call 717.240.6159.

“CASA volunteers are trained community members who serve as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the court after being appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of the child, many of whom are in foster care,” said Anita Brewster, Cumberland County CASA Program Director. “CASA volunteers ensure that the child’s ‘voice’ is heard in court and that needs of the child are being addressed.”

Last year, 55 Cumberland County CASA volunteers advocated for nearly 90 dependent children. However, there is a growing demand for more volunteers, as many children in Cumberland County are eligible and waiting for a CASA volunteer.

“CASA is reaching out to find individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children in our area,” added Brewster.

Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older, complete an interview process, pass background clearances, and undergo 50 hours of training. The in-depth training for new volunteers educates

advocates about the CASA volunteer role, the child welfare system, and effective advocacy techniques. Most volunteers spend 10-20 hours per month in their advocacy role, and most cases last between 18-24 months.

Training for new CASA volunteers is scheduled to begin in early September 2025. Additional training sessions will be held in the spring of 2026.

CASA Volunteer roles and responsibilities:

- **Gather Information:** To inform the court of the child's situation, a volunteer must gather in-depth knowledge of the child and his or her family situation.
- **Advocate:** Provide the facts to the court through written reports and speaking on the child's behalf for the child's best interest.
- **Facilitate:** Communicate between the parties for services to support the child's needs.
- **Monitor:** Stay informed of the child's situation until a safe, permanent home has been achieved.

These four key actions help ensure the court has all information needed to make the best-informed decisions regarding the best interest of the child.

CASA is a national program, and there are over 950 programs across the nation. It is the only program of its kind and is built around assigning one caring adult advocate to the case of one abused and/or neglected child or sibling group. To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit cumberlandcountypa.gov/casa, email casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov, or call at 717.240.6159.

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